

**METHOD AND SYSTEMS FOR SHARING NETWORK ACCESS
CAPACITIES ACROSS INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Abstract

For optimizing Internet access resources, a method and
5 systems for sharing network access capacities across Inter-
net service providers is disclosed. According to the method
of the invention, a client service provider (CSP) may hire
accesses to points of presence belonging to a master service
provider (MSP) while maintaining a constant security level
10 and providing connection accounting means. When a CSP's
subscriber sends an access request to a MSP, the MSP
analyzes the subscriber's realm and checks the capacities
allocated to the subscriber's CSP. If connection is allowed,
the MSP sends an authentication request to the CSP. If the
15 subscriber is authenticated, the MSP launches an accounting
process based on the subscriber's realm while the CSP may
launch an accounting process associated with the subscriber
identifier. Thus, the MSP does not need to maintain a
database comprising information relative to the CSP's
20 subscribers.